

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ANKARA 006314

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL
JCS PASS J-5/CDR S. WRIGHT

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC KMDR TU

SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2004

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES

BRIEFING

EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

US troops target Fallujah - Hurriyet 11/7
Americans call on civilians to evacuate Fallujah - Sabah
11/7
Bloody day in Samarra: 37 killed - Aksam 11/7
Israel prepares Gaza for Arafat burial - Aksam
Macedonia anger in Thessaloniki - Milliyet
Greek Cypriots want Turkey vetoed at EU summit - Milliyet
Greek daily: US will recognize 'TRNC' - Sabah
Bush 'trauma': Democrat, 25, commits suicide - Hurriyet
Americans flee Bush for New Zealand, Australia, Canada -
Aksam 11/7
Thousands of Americans flee Bush - Milliyet 11/7

OPINION MAKERS

34 policemen killed in Iraq, government declares emergency rule - Zaman
Iraq declares emergency rule - Cumhuriyet
Violence on rise in Iraq - Radikal 11/7
Half of Greek Cypriots oppose EU entry talks with Turkey - Zaman
Angry at Bush, Democrat youth commits suicide - Cumhuriyet
Arafat's situation ambiguous - Yeni Safak
Arafat's situation neither good, nor bad - Cumhuriyet 11/7
300 Palestinian children in detention - Cumhuriyet
Yerevan softens tone on 'genocide' - Zaman 11/7

BRIEFING

Ambassador Schnabel on US/Turkey, EU: US Ambassador to the EU, Rockwell Schnabel, said in an exclusive with the Turkish daily "Zaman" prior to his visit to Ankara on November 9 that the Bush Administration has changed its tactic in supporting Turkey's EU drive. 'Membership is an internal issue of the EU, so at this point we are pursuing quieter policy in support of Turkey's goal,' Schnabel said. Turkey's prospective EU membership will bring about a 'win-win' situation, Schnabel noted, dismissing charges that the US aims to 'dilute' the EU by pushing Turkey inside the European bloc. Ambassador Schnabel said the US prefers a stronger Europe. 'We share the same values as Europe, but we sometimes express ourselves differently,' he emphasized. Europe's old and outdated economic elements will be revitalized by the competition Turkey's membership will bring, Schnabel stressed. President Bush's second term in office will bring steps forward in an effort to put our relations with Europe on track, he added. Schnabel also pointed to the significant role Turkey is expected to play in the Greater Middle East (GME) initiative. Schnabel denied claims about US intentions to control the Middle East through the GME project, saying the US wanted to help transparent and democratic regimes to emerge in the region.

Greek Cypriots oppose Turkey's EU drive: A majority of Greek Cypriots want Nicosia to veto the opening of accession talks between Turkey and the European Union, according to a poll published on Sunday. 52 percent of Greek Cypriots said they want Nicosia to exercise its veto right, while just 15 percent disagreed. Greek Cypriot opposition to accession talks with Turkey has increased since a similar poll in July, according to the survey released by the Cypriot daily "Politis." At that time, 45 percent of Greek Cypriots said they would support any decision by President Papadopoulos to veto the start of Turkish entry talks. Papadopoulos has set a series of conditions, including diplomatic recognition by Ankara, before the EU grants Turkey a date for membership negotiations. Nicosia concerned by possible US recognition of 'TRNC': Greek Cypriots are worried that the US, following its decision to recognize the name Macedonia, will recognize the breakaway Turkish statelet in north Cyprus, weekend papers

report. Greek Cypriot papers also claim that American Airlines (AA) and Turkish Airlines (THY) have signed an agreement to begin international flights to Ercan Airport in the north.

Yerevan changes foreign policy priorities: For the first time, the Armenian government said in its 2005 budget proposal discussed at the parliament that Yerevan gives priority to the improvement of relations with Turkey. In its 2005 budget discussions, the Armenian government has not asked for allocation of funds for propagating Armenian charges of 'genocide' carried out by Turks in 1915. Yerevan also said it aimed to continue cooperation with international organizations set up in the region in the post-Soviet era, and to 'integrate' with Russia, the US, and the EU. The Azerbaijani press portrayed the decision by the Armenian government as an 'historic' step. Ankara welcomed the opening by Yerevan with 'cautious optimism,' according to high-level Turkish sources. Armenia should also end its occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh, and officially renounce its territorial claims on Turkey, sources told "Hurriyet." Turkish and Armenian diplomats are to meet in Istanbul next week.

Syrian FM due in Turkey: Syrian FM Faruk al-Sara will be in Ankara Monday for a two-day working visit. Sara will meet with Foreign Minister Gul and President Sezer to discuss the upcoming conference of Iraq's neighbors to be held in Egypt in late November. The two sides will also discuss the Middle East peace process and other regional issues.

Turkish truckers killed in Iraq: A Turkish truck driver transporting goods for US soldiers stationed around Baghdad was found Sunday shot dead in Samarra, north of the Iraqi capital. Another Turk was killed Saturday when his fuel truck convoy was attacked near Mosul.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Bush Re-Election

"The Second Bush Era" Gazanfer Gur wrote in the mass appeal-sensational "Posta" (11/8): "The reelection of George Bush resulted in disappointment and concern around the world. The worry apparently stems from the prospects for the future of world peace. I do not agree with the prevailing view. Given the current chaos in the Middle East and Iraq, I believe it is in everyone's interest to see the continuation of the current administration in Washington. This time, I hope that President Bush will be able to revise his policies and enter into more international cooperation. This would pave the way for establishing lasting peace and stability in this region."

"Four More Years" Asli Aydintasbas wrote in the mass appeal "Sabah" (11/8): "The second Bush administration is taking shape, but there is still no clarity on Washington's Iran and Iraq policies. Speculation about a new era in Iraq' has started circulating following the resignation of Bush's top Iraq policy adviser, Robert Blackwill. The US experienced an incredible failure in Iraq during Blackwill's leadership. The current situation in Iraq, the impending attack on Fallujah, and the US efforts to promote Allawi reflect the continuation of the former unsuccessful policy line. . If there is a delay in the Iraqi elections, or if US tries to cheat in favor of Allawi, a civil war will become inevitable in Iraq. In that case, the independence movement of the Iraqi Kurds will accelerate and will undoubtedly create a problem for Turkey."

"At the Current Stage" The social democrat/intellectual "Cumhuriyet" carried this op-ed on 11/8: "The Americans felt insecure and terrified for the first time by the events of September 11, when the radical Islamic terrorist organization attacked them unexpectedly at home. Yet the fact of the matter is that it was the US itself which helped to develop radical Islam. Dr. Frankenstein created its monster as security against the Soviet Union in Asia. After the Soviet era came to an end, Frankenstein's monster posed a threat to American interests in the Islamic world. The neo-cons benefited from this change and appeared on the scene. The common interests connecting American politics with the long-term strategies of the oil and weapons' industries managed to affect attitude of the American people at the ballot box as well."

EDELMAN